

## INL creates new Mentor-Protege program

Idaho National Laboratory recently signed a Mentor-Protegé Agreement with International Management Solutions, LLC. IMS is an Idaho Falls business, established in 2005 and owned by Bertha Jones, Lydia Gonzales and Berniece Hansen. It is an Hispanic women-owned small business specializing in records and document management and administrative services.

"To build a world-class laboratory, it is imperative that INL have a world-class Small Business Program," Dana Storms, INL Small Business officer, said. "The DOE Mentor-Protegé program provides a vehicle to work with a company like International Management Solutions and take a mentoring approach to ensuring small business success."

This is the first such agreement for Battelle Energy Alliance, which manages INL for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The program seeks to foster long-term business relationships between small business entities and DOE prime contractors, and to increase the overall number of small businesses that receive DOE contract and subcontract awards.

"International Management Solutions, LLC, is extremely proud to have been selected for this tremendous small business opportunity," said Bertha Jones, IMS president. "We have a common vision for quality, integrity and success. IMS has worked with INL on numerous projects, and we are excited to become a strategic partner. The mentoring and transfer of knowledge IMS will receive will enable our company to become more competitive to other DOE facilities, various government and nongovernmental agencies. We are very fortunate to have BEA as our mentor to take us to the next level."

Under the agreement - approved by the DOE Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) on Feb. 13 - INL will implement a developmental program to assist International Management Solutions with corporate development activities, and enhance IMS's capabilities in records and document management services. The goal is to increase the small business's technical and business capabilities for performing future work for INL, the Department of Energy, other federal agencies and the private sector.

INL's Training & Document Resources Division of Facilities and Site Services oversees this agreement.

Photo: IMS executives



**International Management Solutions, LLC. (left to right) Lydia Gonzales, VP Operations, Berniece Hansen, VP Human Resources, Bertha Jones, President.**

"This program is one form of outreach under the INL Small Business Program that shows a commitment to our customer to work with small businesses in meaningful contract performance," said Oren Hester, Training & Document Resources director.

INL does not receive funding from DOE to manage the Mentor-Protegé activities. The program is an option for DOE prime contractors, one in which INL has chosen to participate.

The program is designed to encourage DOE prime contractors to assist small disadvantaged firms certified by the Small Business Administration under Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, other small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned and serviced-disabled-veteran-owned small businesses, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other minority institutions of higher learning, in business and technical areas.

**About International Management Solutions:** IMS's client list includes Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC (BEA) - Human Performance Technical Support Services, and Records Management Services; North Wind, Inc. (NW) - Record and Document Scanning; and Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC - Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP)-Document Text Processor Support Services.

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Photo: Hester and Storms



**INL mentor champions Oren Hester, Training & Document Resources director, and Dana Storms, Small Business officer, discuss and plan mentoring activities for IMS.**